

## CLAIMS

1           1. A system for facilitating supply chain processes in an outsourced  
2 manufacturing environment, comprising:  
3           a manufacturing entity comprising:  
4           a server executing a plurality of applications including an outsourced supply chain  
5 tool for implementing supply chain execution processes;  
6           a terminal in communication with said server via a communications link;  
7           a data storage device in communication with said server via said communications  
8 link;  
9           a network link to a manufacturing division associated with said manufacturing  
10 entity, said manufacturing division procuring assembled products from a contract  
11 manufacturer pursuant to an agreement; and  
12           a network link to a plurality of trading partner systems, said trading partner  
13 systems including at least one each of:  
14           a contract manufacturer system; and  
15           a supplier system.

1           2. The system of claim 1, further comprising:  
2           a customer focus team system in communication with said manufacturing entity,  
3 said customer focus team system associated with said contract manufacturer system.

1           3. The system of claim 1, further comprising:  
2           a commodity team council system in communication with said manufacturing  
3 entity, said commodity team council system associated with said supplier system.

1 4. The system of claim 1, further comprising:  
2 a decentralized file database for providing supply chain execution data specific to  
3 said contract manufacturer system.

1 5. The system of claim 1, wherein said supply chain execution processes include  
2 implementing a preferred price protection plan generated via said outsourced supply  
3 chain tool.

1 6. The system of claim 1, wherein said supply chain execution processes includes  
2 implementing a set of business rules for directing a trading partner to perform an activity,  
3 said activity including:  
4 directly procuring parts pursuant to a bid award;  
5 executing a purchase order for directly procured parts; and  
6 executing invoice and payment procedures for said directly procured parts.

1 7. The system of claim 1, wherein said supply chain execution processes includes  
2 executing an exception approval request form pursuant to a request to deviate from a  
3 preferred sourcing strategy.

1 8. The system of claim 2, wherein said customer focus team system performs  
2 administrative services for said contract manufacturing system.

1 9. The system of claim 8, wherein said administrative services include:  
2 facilitating transfer and replenishment of components needed during manufacture;  
3 ensuring ongoing inventory demand issues are addressed and resolved;  
4 obtaining and providing metrics on outsourced supply chain parts and activities;  
5 assisting said contract manufacturing system during shortfalls of supplies;  
6 collaborating with said commodity team council systems relating to acquisition of  
7 critical parts; and  
8 providing assistance on matters related to import, export, and tax issues.

1 10. The system of claim 3, wherein said commodity team council system  
2 provides administrative support to said supplier system.

1 11. The system of claim 10, wherein said administrative support includes:  
2 ensuring timely placement of purchase orders relating to supporting supplier  
3 systems;  
4 managing order books of said supporting supplier systems;  
5 providing outsourced supply chain metrics relating to supply chain activities;  
6 escalating shortfalls identified for inventories of said supplier systems;  
7 assisting said customer focus team systems in acquiring critical parts;  
8 facilitating replenishment implementation and drive to complete drop shipment  
9 functions;  
10 resolving finance issues;  
11 visiting said supplier systems;  
12 providing support for other outsourced supply chain regions on unique supplier  
13 issues;  
14 providing input on supplier report cards; and  
15 interfacing with council chairs on contract issues, geographical allocations,  
16 supplier credits, and letters to suppliers on transfers.

*Sub A*

12. A method for facilitating supply chain processes in an outsourced manufacturing environment, said manufacturing environment including an original equipment manufacturer, at least one supplier and at least one contract manufacturer, comprising:

- selecting a preferred price protection plan from a list of plan choices in response to analysis and award of a contract manufacturing bid resulting in an agreement;
- executing an outsourced supply chain tool for implementing said plan, comprising:
  - placing a purchase order with a contract manufacturing entity in accordance with said agreement via said outsourced supply chain tool;
  - filtering out parts listed on said purchase order flagged for special execution as directed by said preferred price protection plan;
  - placing a second purchase order for flagged parts with a supplier designated by said original equipment manufacturer, said second purchase order containing instructions for providing said flagged parts to said contract manufacturer;
  - coordinating delivery and payment transactions for said flagged parts;
  - coordinating delivery and payment transactions for finished products;
  - monitoring associated activities of said original equipment manufacturer, said at least one contract manufacturer, and said at least one supplier; and
  - resolving issues relating to said associated activities.

1 13. A storage medium encoded with machine-readable computer program code  
2 for facilitating supply chain processes in an outsourced manufacturing environment, said  
3 manufacturing environment including an original equipment manufacturer, at least one  
4 contract manufacturer, and at least one supplier, the storage medium including  
5 instructions for causing a computer to implement a method, comprising:

6 selecting a preferred price protection plan from a list of plan choices in response  
7 to analysis and award of a contract manufacturing bid resulting in an agreement;

8 executing an outsourced supply chain tool for implementing said plan,  
9 comprising:

10 placing a purchase order with a contract manufacturing entity in accordance with  
11 said agreement via said outsourced supply chain tool;

12 filtering out parts listed on said purchase order flagged for special execution as  
13 directed by said preferred price protection plan;

14 placing a second purchase order for flagged parts with a supplier designated by  
15 said original equipment manufacturer, said second purchase order containing instructions  
16 for providing said flagged parts to said contract manufacturer;

17 coordinating delivery and payment transactions for said flagged parts;

18 coordinating delivery and payment transactions for finished products;

19 monitoring associated activities of said original equipment manufacturer, said at  
20 least one contract manufacturer, and said at least one supplier; and

21 resolving issues relating to said associated activities.